

# THE PARKSIDE PARENT CONNECTION

February/March  
2011

Principal Andrea Somoza-Norton  
Assistant Principal Kimberly Organek  
Assistant Principal Ken Rov



## Mark Your Calendar!

3/2 Reading  
Across America-  
Dr. Seuss'  
Birthday

3/15- Talent  
Show Try-Outs

3/16 Officer  
Rondeau  
Bullying  
Presentation  
7:45-10:45AM

3/20 First Day  
of Spring!

3/28-29 Talent  
Show Rehearsal  
(Gym)

## Principal's News

The results of the October 2010 NECAP were released to the public in January. All grade levels participated in the NECAP testing. The assessment scores are used to determine if the schools are meeting Adequate Yearly Progress goals as determined by the federal legislation, No Child Left Behind. This year Parkside has made good progress and results show improvement. Adequate Yearly Progress scores are not released until later in the year.

Your child's NECAP Report and district assessment performance levels are enclosed with the Quarter 3 Progress Reports. I would encourage you to review these results and the information in these reports to understand your child's progress in the areas of mathematics, reading and writing. Teachers will be using these scores along with our other school assessments to identify your student's strongest areas as well as areas for growth and apply appropriate interventions, resources and instructional techniques.

Finally, I would like to remind parents/guardians to please make sure that phone contact details are accurate with our main office. This is extremely important, particularly in case of an emergency. Any changes with phone numbers and/or addresses must be made with the main office immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Norton

## Assistant Principals' News

Dear Parkside Community,

I am very grateful for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the interim assistant principal here at Parkside in Mrs. Organek's absence. Having been a teacher here for thirty years, I have learned a lot through my tenure and I appreciate the opportunity to learn even more in this interim position.

I want to thank the administration at Parkside, the entire staff, and the students for their continuous encouragement and tremendous support.

One district policy that was implemented at the beginning of this school year that I would like to address is the attendance policy. It has been brought to my attention that this needs to be addressed so there is a clear understanding of what needs to occur when your child is absent from school.

When your child is absent a written documentation indicating the reason for the absence, the date(s) and a parent's signature upon the student's return to school is required. When this above procedure is followed an "excused absence" will be credited.

## Assistant Principals' News (Continued)

A voice message left on extension 14 by a parent or guardian does not excuse your child. The phone call avoids the school from having to contact you regarding your child's absence. However, the note is still required in order for the absence to be excused.

Failure to follow this district policy as stated above, will result in the following:

1. A letter will be mailed to the parents of the student who has two unexcused absences, along with the district's attendance policy.
2. A letter will be mailed to the parents of the student who has three unexcused absences, along with the district's attendance policy, a scheduled meeting time and date to discuss an attendance plan for the student.
3. A letter will be mailed to the parents of the student who has five unexcused absences, along with the district's attendance policy, and in addition stating that you are in violation of RSA 193 and 189, and that your child is truant and the truant officer will be contacted.

If you should have further question please contact me at the school, extension 12. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey J. Hebert  
Interim Assistant Principal

### Parkside Drop Off and Pick up Reminder

There have been a few close calls during drop offs and pickups and we would like to remind you of the following for safety concerns:

1. Please use the designated area near the teacher parking lot in front of the school. **Signs are posted for drop off.** Please use this area to drop off your children.
2. Please do not drive into the Gossler Park School area to drop off or pick up your children at any time. Some parents have disregarded posted signs and driven into the area. This is the area where the close calls have occurred.

We all want our kids safe!

Thank you for your cooperation,  
Ken Roy  
Assistant Principal



## NURSE CORNER

As we Winter our way through the cold months of the year and look forward to the warmer weather we should still continue to vigilant against the "Flu" and some other upper respiratory illnesses. We should encourage our children to wash hands frequently. Avoid coughing into our hands and to use the inside of our elbows to cover when coughing or sneezing. Avoiding close contact with anyone who is ill with Flu or Flu like symptoms and making parents aware they are ill before coming to school.

When your children are ill or not well please keep them home to prevent the spread of illness within our school community. If you children are exhibiting symptoms such as excessive coughing with congestion, nausea with vomiting, diarrhea and or temperatures, which are greater 100 degrees, they should not be attending school. Parent should access their children prior to sending to school. They should be fever free for at least 24 hours before coming to school.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a very contagious disease caused by a type of bacteria called Bordetella Pertussis. We as parents should make sure that are children receive there immunizations to prevent them from getting this vaccine-preventable diseases Pertussis is one of the most commonly occurring ones in the United States. Vaccines include DTaP vaccine for infants and children and Tdap booster for adolescents and adults. During winter months this can go undetected due it being easy for children and adults to "catch a cold" a cough, which continues for more than 1 to 2 weeks, should be evaluated by physician to rule out Pertussis.

All child and adolescent vaccines are available for school aged children at the Manchester Health Dept. Parents can call for clinic hours and must attend the appointment with their child. The telephone number is 628-6003 and ask for immunization clinic.

Spring ahead and Fall back. Don't forget to change your clock on March 13 !!!  
As always for any questions or concerns please call Mrs. L Keefe RN @ 624-6356 Ext !6

Or Email [lkeefe@mansd.org](mailto:lkeefe@mansd.org) .

MORE INFORMATION :

<http://www.cdc.gov.Features/Pertussis/>

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4212.pdf>



## GET MOVING MANCHESTER 2011: *It's Up to You*

It is time again for Get Moving Manchester, a school-based program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Manchester. The program is sponsored by the Manchester Health Department, Manchester School District, and Catholic Medical Center and focuses on healthy behaviors such as nutrition and physical activity. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Get Moving Manchester program will begin March 14, 2011 and end April 8, 2011. This year's theme, Get Moving Manchester 2011: *It's Up to You!* encourages teachers, parents, and students to take control of their health by tracking their fruits, vegetables, healthy beverages, exercise, and screen time. Schools will be teaching kids that it is up to each individual to learn and practice healthy lifestyle habits.

Parents and guardians play a major role in molding the overall health of their children. Trying new foods, eating meals, grocery shopping, and preparing or cooking meals with their children will trigger conversations about why it is important to make healthy choices. Research has shown that children's behavior is learned mostly through the observation of others. The Get Moving Manchester 2011: *It's Up to You!* theme will reach parents through school newsletters, the Manchester School District web site, an MCTV "Our Public Health" show, a local radio station talk show, and school PTO/PTA meetings. For more information on the program, visit the Manchester School District web site at [www.mansd.org](http://www.mansd.org) or contact Sue Sheehy at [SueSheehy@aol.com](mailto:SueSheehy@aol.com).



## GUIDANCE NEWS

**Mrs. Cornell - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

On March 4<sup>th</sup> Parkside 6<sup>th</sup> graders will begin participating in *Get Moving Manchester*, a 4-week nutrition and physical activity program. This year's theme is *It's Up to You* and encourages parents/guardians and teachers to be role models for the students. Parents and teachers will be asked to keep track of their eating habits, exercise and screen time along with the students.

Students who participate will be entered into weekly raffles. The Middle School with the most students participating receives a trophy and a Wii Fit and Wii Brain Academy donated by CMC. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of this activity and this is our turn to win.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> students will receive a chart with instructions on how to keep track.

Parents - please encourage your child to participate and do it along with them. Principal Norton, the 6th grade teachers and I will also be participating.

**Mrs. Darby - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

Even though it seems like yesterday we were coming in to school for the very first time, we are past the midway point of the school year. With the spring season (hopefully) fast approaching, we start taking a look at next year and what that means for our students. A tool that can often help a student is the Family Portal, a service that is offered by the school district for parents with online access to check in with their child's grades. Knowing if your student has missed a major assignment or isn't doing so well on homework can help you better understand what help your child needs. With this, you can work with the school in developing an academic plan to help your student during the homestretch of the school year; which is often always the hardest. This is just one of the many resources that you have access to that can you're your student be successful here at Parkside.

**Mr. Liakos - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

I would like to begin by thanking all of the parents who took an active role in the West High registration process. March 4<sup>th</sup> marked the deadline for handing in the completed forms. Over the past few weeks, I received several emails and phone calls from parents on the topic of freshman course options. Also, it was wonderful to see a strong showing of parents and students at the freshman Open House at West High on February 10. I will be checking all forms individually to insure that the required courses and minimum number of credits needed during the freshman year have been selected.

Career Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20. At this time, I have twenty- five confirmed speakers from the local community with a need for seven more. Referrals are appreciated. I can be reached at 624-6356 x28 or at [pliakos@mansd.org](mailto:pliakos@mansd.org).

**PARKSIDE P.T.G. POST -IT'S**

The next Parkside PTG meeting will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. All staff and parents are encouraged to attend and share ideas and voice their opinion.

**Recent events:**

Valentines Dance was held by the National Junior Honor Society on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

It was a great success!!! Students who attended seemed to have had a good time!

Cookie Dough Fundraiser that was held before Holiday Break appeared to be a success and will probably be used as a fundraiser for the next year also!!!

**Upcoming events:**

**Spring Ground Cleanup.** We are in the process of planning for this when the ground is not frozen or covered with snow and ice. We discussed at the last PTG meeting going back to the use of grass for the outside front of the building. It will in the long run be more cost effective than using plastic and mulch. We discussed the need to put together a committee to get the ball rolling. We will be working with Aramark to get the plastic covering up and plant the seed. Mrs. Barber was asking about having some more assistance with the outside cleaning around the building in the Spring. I hope we will have some more student and parent involvement. Yankee Candle Fundraiser; to start the first week in March with a 2 week shopping window. This will mean a return for Easter week delivery. Help with is needed to help separate and distribute this when the order is delivered to the school. There is also a reminder on the Park side parent connection. Web site, which is [parentsatparkside@comcast.net](mailto:parentsatparkside@comcast.net)

**Wish Lists:**

Things to be purchased by PTG : (1) Gator skin balls /used for PE for dodgeball and soccer (2) Wall hangers are needed for art projects etc will be looked into for the front office and conference room (3) Mrs. Barber has asked to purchase some more microscopes with will be used for all grades (4) Guidance is looking to bring back the Tiger Program >the cost is approximately \$ 2000.00 and would like to solicit out side funds for this> This program is from Plymouth State University (5) Mrs. Norton would like to spruce up the conference room and use photographs of past students and events at the school. Please let her know if you would like to help with this project.

Notes from the last PTG meeting can be found @ [parentsatparkside@comcast.net](mailto:parentsatparkside@comcast.net)

**Continued need for help:**

Continued need for help is needed for events which occur throughout the school year such as chaperones for school dances, distribution of fund raisers materials, Park side clean up events in the spring, and many other things. Please if you can help us by donating time

All are welcome!

Box tops and Campbell soup labels; we will continue to collect them throughout the school year. Please send them in!!!